

# Alamitos Heights Improvement Association

## Holiday Tree Lighting Celebration November 25<sup>th</sup>

Snow Play: 4-7:30 PM  
Tree Lighting, Carolers,  
and Santa: 6 - 7:30 PM

Alamitos Heights Park  
(corner of Colorado St. &  
Orlena Ave.)

Snow in Alamitos Heights? Yes, there will be snow. Since our traditional holiday tree lighting ceremony is moving to a new location due to Colorado Lagoon construction, we're celebrating the holiday in a new way. Instead of lighting the trees on the lagoon, we will symbolically light a tree in Alamitos Heights Park, complete with 50 foot long hill covered with snow. And, sleds will be provided. So, come prepared for some old fashion fun.

Santa will once again arrive on a firetruck and will take photos with kids of all ages. We'll also enjoy cookies from Leslie Stonick and hot cocoa provided by Polly's Coffee on Second Street. Both generously donated. A special treat this year will include caroling by the Wilson High School choir.

In the spirit of giving, we're collecting new and unwrapped toy to donate in support of the Long Beach Fire Department's Spark-of-Love toy drive. This will be a nice thank you to the fire crew who deliver Santa in the fire truck. If you have any questions, contact: [events@ahia.info](mailto:events@ahia.info)



## AHIA Community Meetings

One of our favorite ways to connect with neighbors is through our Community Meetings, which are held at the beautiful Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Greek Orthodox Church. We use this time to discuss important neighborhood topics, connect, socialize, nosh, and stay informed.

Over the past year, we've heard about:

- The State of the City from Mayor Robert Garcia
- How crimes are investigated in Long Beach
- Ways to plant drought tolerant parkways
- How to plant or remove City trees
- The planned restoration of the vital Los Cerritos Wetland
- How to remodel our homes for indoor health and zero utility bills
- What's happening in the 3rd District, presented by Councilwoman Suzie Price
- How the Colorado Lagoon construction is progressing and the current state of the Open Channel project
- We've also had fun giveaways from [Ring.com](http://Ring.com) home security and Long Beach State Women's Basketball

**Our next meetings are scheduled at 7pm on Wednesday January 18, 2017 & Wednesday April 26, 2017**

Mark your calendars to join us. To make these meetings meaningful to our community, please share the topics you'd like to covered. Please contact us at [events@ahia.info](mailto:events@ahia.info). See you in January!

## President's Message

Becoming an AHIA Board member or volunteer is a commitment of time, effort, creativity, and caring about our neighborhood. I see this every day from your AHIA Board. For example, undeterred by the Lagoon's blue fences and construction, your Board looked for an alternative to our annual Tree Lighting Ceremony. Thanks to Kim Garvey, Holland Brown, Annemarie Sauer Hale, and Leslie Grenier we have a great alternative in a Snow Slide Holiday Event. A big thank you to AHIA member and Councilwoman Suzie Price, who is sponsoring the snow slide.

Our new, and returning, board members are jumping in to get things done. Leslie Stonick is our Membership Chairperson, Jody Casillan is our Secretary, and Leslie Grenier is the editor of AHIA Newsletters. Holland Brown continues to organize our Community Meetings. Roberta Smith returns as our Treasurer.

AHIA now has a Facebook page thanks to board member Beth Ciceri. Please check out the page and Like us: AlamitosHeightsImprovementAssociation. A team also worked to add a PayPal account to make it more convenient to receive dues and donations.

We really appreciate neighborhood volunteers like, Loretta Hawley, CPA, for her guidance on tax filings, Hap Wood for contributing lemonade at meetings and our picnic, Chris York for taking a lead role with Annemarie Sauer Hale for the Picnic, Tanya Wannamaker for putting together a rocking good summer concert, and Yesmean Rihbany for producing the newsletter and setting up our first picnic Art Fair.

We also thank our AHIA members for their support. With your \$30 annual dues, AHIA creates opportunities for us all to get out connect with our AH neighbors. When you think about it, a Lagoon Tree Lighting, a picnic in June, a concert in August, three community meetings, setting up a community yard sale, and promoting safety via Community Watch Groups, this is a bargain for \$30.

I'm grateful to our board members and volunteers who get things done and to all of you for your support.

See you around the neighborhood,  
Gary Morrison



## Holiday Decorating Contest

Join the Alamitos Heights neighborhood for our annual 2016 Holiday Home Decorating Contest. Every house is eligible. All you do is decorate! Let creativity be your guide. No entry form needed. The judges will be out the third week of December. The winners will have a sign placed in their front yards and will be featured in the December AHIA News Blast. It's a fun surprise to come home and see that you have won!

Categories: Best Use of Lights, Originality, Humor, Best Yard Display, and Most Traditional Use of Lights. If you want to make sure we see your house or need additional information, please email the head elf at [califciceris@gmail.com](mailto:califciceris@gmail.com).

## LESLIE STONICK



562.818.5763

Leslie@Lesismor.com

REALTOR

CalBRE# 01363678



Your neighbor and Alamitos Heights Specialist



Kent Eastman  
Sales

"Where the Most Important Home is Yours"

1827 E. Spring Street  
Long Beach, CA 90806

Phone: 562.989.7756 Ext. 171

Fax: 562.285.1168

E-mail: [Kent@FriedmansApplianceCenter.com](mailto:Kent@FriedmansApplianceCenter.com)

[www.FriedmansApplianceCenter.com](http://www.FriedmansApplianceCenter.com)



## Start A Community Watch Group

Interested in collaborating with your neighbors to make your area safer? Interested in increasing safety and awareness on your street? Interested in starting your own Community Watch Group? Now's the time!

Commander Liz Griffin with the LBPD-East Division will be explaining just how to get your own group up and running and providing to tools necessary to do so.

**Join us Tuesday, December 6th at 7:00 pm at 400 Terraine Ave.**

**Please RSVP to Roberta Smith at [treasurer@ahia.info](mailto:treasurer@ahia.info).**

**John P. Gooding**  
Broker Associate

Alamitos Heights Resident & Broker for over 30 years

Century 21 BEACHSIDE

OFFICE 562.756.6500  
E-MAIL [goodingjp@aol.com](mailto:goodingjp@aol.com)

6265 East 2nd Street Long Beach, California 90803

### Website Support Needed

Do you have website expertise? AHIA could use some help in refreshing our website and keeping it up to date. Please contact [board@ahia.info](mailto:board@ahia.info) if you can help.



### A Tribute to Ray Thorn Alamitos Heights Resident and Friends of Colorado Lagoon Founder

On August 27, 2016, our neighborhood lost a beloved long-time

resident, Ray Thorn. Ray was born on March 20, 1946, in Tooele, Utah, and grew up in Utah. While attending Brigham Young University, he met and married Becky Asher, his life-long love. In 1973, Ray and Becky moved to Long Beach where they had a daughter, Nicole. In 1984, Ray, Becky and Nicole moved to Alamitos Heights. Ray loved Alamitos Heights because of Colorado Lagoon and wanted Nicole to be able to experience nature in her backyard. Nicole is now married to Steve and they have a lovely son, Leif.

Ray, one of the founding members of Friends of Colorado Lagoon, led the lawsuit that successfully fought the first iteration of the Termino Ave Storm Drain project which then proposed to discharge polluted storm water into Colorado Lagoon. As president of FOCL, Ray moved the group's focus from litigation to cooperation, pushing for efforts that have vastly improved the lagoon's water quality and restored its wetland habitat. We have Ray to thank for our now clean and beautiful lagoon.

His master's degree in organizational behavior from BYU led to a career in consulting businesses, government, and education. His avocation was almost any outdoors activity, from skiing to hiking to rollerblading. Many of you probably saw Ray out and about in the neighborhood – rollerblading, walking his dog with Becky, playing Frisbee with his dog at the park, playing with his grandson Leif, or working on his house (he was an amazing handyman). He was friendly and kind and will be so very missed. Our hearts go out to his family and friends. The family asks in lieu of flowers, donations be sent to the Ray Thorn Memorial <http://tinyurl.com/RayThornMemorial>.

## Thank You AHIA Members & 2017 Membership Drive

A BIG thank you to all who continue to support AHIA with your membership renewal. Along with various donations collected at AHIA-sponsored events, membership fees account for approximately 90% of our operating budget. Here is a recap of the 2016 totals:

- 817 addresses in Alamitos Heights. Approximately 42% of residents are AHIA members.
- 347 membership renewals (exceeding goal of 304 renewals by 13% (must have been the cupcakes!).
- 269 returning members from 2015; 28 first-time members; the remaining 50 have been members for 1 or more years since 2012.

In the process of preparing the 2017 budget, we decided to not increase membership dues to accommodate increasing costs of our community events like the picnic, summer concert, and tree lighting. Rather, we are going to concentrate on increasing our membership. We have set a membership goal of 400 renewals. With all your support, we believe this is achievable and will assist in off-setting the cost of events.

In early January, be looking for renewal notices in your mailbox . Or, join today using the form below.

- Enclosed is my check or sent via PayPal for \$30.00 Please accept an additional donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Please contact me about how to get more involved in AHIA

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Important: Please provide an email address to receive up to date AHIA news, events, safety, and meeting information! It is only be used for AHIA communication.

Delivery Preference for the bi-annual newsletter? Email - Full Color version OR Postal Mail - Hardcopy B&W

Return this form and your check to: AHIA - PO Box 14571 - Long Beach, CA 90853 OR drop it off at 400 Terraine

Or, Paypal.com - email account: [president@ahia.info](mailto:president@ahia.info) (Dues will be \$31.20 to include service fee)



Janet Darrow  
Realtor



Local and International Properties

JanetLDarrow@gmail.com 562-243-5317  
CA BRE#01977602

[www.FollowDarrowRealEstate.com](http://www.FollowDarrowRealEstate.com)



**JC Financial Planning  
& Investments LLC**

-A Registered Investment Adviser-

**Your Swiss Banker in Long Beach**  
·Retirement Plans ·Asset Management ·Fee-based

Call for a **FREE**  
consultation:  
**(562)-743 6031**  
[www.jcinvestment.net](http://www.jcinvestment.net)



**Juerg Ciceri,**  
Certified  
Financial  
Planner™



## Colorado Lagoon Restoration Update

The city is re-sloping portions of the northern shore to create more intertidal habitat for fish and birds and using that material to raise some subtidal parts of the northern arm to accommodate eelgrass. The footbridge will be extended and made more accessible. A nature trail with benches and interpretive signage from the bridge to 6th St will be built. The bio swale to capture and treat runoff from the golf course will be extended. Non-native trees will be replaced with natives and the upland habitat along the trail and golf course will be restored. The timeline is four months, and if they make good on the schedule the lagoon should re-open mid-January. More info can be found at the FOCL website. [www.coloradolagoon.org](http://www.coloradolagoon.org)

### Thank You to This Issue's Contributors

- ◆ Holland Brown
- ◆ Beth Ciceri, Advertising
- ◆ Kim Garvey
- ◆ Leslie Grenier
- ◆ Yesmean Rihbany
- ◆ Roberta Smith

### Yard Sale Signs



Just a reminder, if you put up signs for a yard/garage sale, please take them down after the sale. Keep our neighborhood clean.

### Staying on Top Alamitos Heights News

There are important City projects that will impact Alamitos Heights, including SEASP, the South-East Area Specific Plan, and the City of Long Beach Land Use Plan. To learn more about what will be happening and get up to date information, visit the City of Long Beach LB Development Services page([www.lbds.info](http://www.lbds.info)). If you are not getting the 3<sup>rd</sup> District Council email newsletter, contact [district3@longbeach.gov](mailto:district3@longbeach.gov) to sign up.

Craig WALLACE Group

**kw** PACIFIC ESTATES  
KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY  
Lic#01930723

Alamitos Heights Resident for 20 years.  
Realtor and Certified Appraiser

P 562.673.1138  
E [craig@craigwallacegroup.com](mailto:craig@craigwallacegroup.com)  
B [www.alamitosheightsblog.com](http://www.alamitosheightsblog.com)

### Local Harvest

Certified

### Farmers' Market

Every Wednesday from 3 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Marine Stadium  
Appian Way and Nieto Ave



### -Farm fresh fruits and vegetables-

pure raw honey – free range eggs – dried fruits – nuts  
baked goods – specialty foods – flavored kettle corn  
fresh field cut flowers – handmade & unique items

Enjoy a variety of hot, fresh food made to order  
In our Food Court  
Lee Ostendorf 562-449-9299

### SHOP FOR A CAUSE



→ SUPPORTING HOMELESS & LOW INCOME FAMILIES IN LONG BEACH ←

MONDAY-SATURDAY 11-5 • SUNDAY 12-4  
1772 CLARK AVE, LONG BEACH 90815 • 562-342-6487

## Alamitos Heights Improvement Association

P.O. BOX 14571

Long Beach, CA 90853

[www.AHIA.info](http://www.AHIA.info)

## Creating Community Together

### AHIA EVENTS —2017

January	Membership Drive Begins
January 18	Community Meeting
April 26	Community Meeting
May 20	AHIA Community Yard Sale
June 11	Annual Picnic , Art Fair, Fun Run, Board Elections
August	AHIA Extended Summer Concert
September	New Board Takes Office
October	Community Meeting
November 24	Lagoon Tree Lighting
December	Holiday Decorating Contest

### 2015-2016 AHIA Board

Gary Morrison, President  
Jodi Casillan, Secretary  
Roberta Smith, Treasurer  
Holland Brown  
Beth Ciceri  
Kim Garvey  
Leslie Grenier  
Leslie Stonick

Volunteers Welcome & Needed  
Contact — [events@ahia.info](mailto:events@ahia.info)

Interested in advertising in the AHIA Newsletter? Reach over 800 homes  
Contact [info@ahia.info](mailto:info@ahia.info) for details

Visit us on Facebook: Alamitos Heights Improvement Association